

# • C o u n t e r p o i s e •

## The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

July 2008

Number 7



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: July 10, 2008 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post  
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

## WA6BGS Field Day 2008



Speaker

HandiHams by: Marcia DeRuntz KG6FIX

## 2008 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Secretary	N6ERD	Dan Severance	449-8526
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

## 2008 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
	KF6KE	Richard West	462-2771

## 2008 Standing Committees

Bylaws	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Health & Welfare	OPEN	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Historian	OPEN		
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W2IRI	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535
Social Chair	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535

## Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KO4QT	Steve	Vice President
N6ERD	Dan	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

## SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North  
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP  
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics  
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS  
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month  
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

## From The President

**Paul KC6QLS**



To start, I would like to say that after we got the call about the break in, the Club pulled together, and we had one of the best Field Days ever. We had help from San Diego Six Shooters and many of our dual membership members. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Field Day.

Steve KO4QT did a superb job getting every last detail done right. The food was great, and we had many helpers setting up the towers and gear. This year we had many youths getting on the air for their first time, and they had fun.

**Paul, KC6QLS**  
President



**Del Mar Fair at Kids Best**





## Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting  
12 June 2008



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the club President Paul, KC6QLS at 1907hrs.

SECRETARY'S report as published in the Counterpoise was approved as published. Mike, N6OPH took the minutes for the May meeting and has been asked by Paul, KC6QLS to take the meeting minutes in the absence of Dan, N6ERD for this meeting as well.

TREASURER Panger, KG6JCW read the treasurer's report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

WAMO certificates were awarded by Michael AE6CQ to club members present to receive them. President Rios began the discussion and computer demonstration for the Field Day software. Roxanne of CALFIRE was not able to attend.

Steve, KO4QT is the Field Day Chairman, and he presented the Field Day assignments and other information necessary for Field Day. Steve also described the point system that would be employed during the entire Field Day event. This year there will be 100 points awarded for an "educational program." There will be 10 point for each NTS message copied, etc.

Mike, N6OPH spoke about the safety rules and also announced that a SANDARC VE test team will be on the Field Day site to administer examinations for those who are interested.

DEL MAR FAIR booth was discussed by Paul, which would start on Saturday 14 June 2008. The SANDARC booth would be located in the infield of the racetrack.

After the break, the business portion of the meeting continued.

Paul announced that he and Ann purchased the badge business from Bill, K6QB and will be providing the badges for the clubs and other amateur radio organizations.

COUNTERPOISE still needs articles and has already been published this month.

VICE PRESIDENT announced that the July program would be a Handi-Hams presentation.

NET MANAGER, Mike announced that there were 22 check-ins on the Wednesday night net.

DEL MAR Fair report was given by Steve, KO6QT. Volunteers are needed for the booth at the fair. All is in readiness for the opening of the fair.

SANDARC report was given by Steve, KO6QT. A presentation was made by Paul, KC6QLS regarding the planning for the Del Mar Fair. Also, the convention 2010 committee had their first meeting to begin planning for the 2010 ARRL SW Division Convention. The convention is scheduled for September, 2010 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel on Aero Drive. There will be a teleconference for the NCVEC in July.

MEMBERSHIP for the club stands at 180 members. This evening we had 40 members in attendance with 2 visitors.

EDUCATION chairman Mike, N6OPH announced that the extra theory course would start sometime in September.

There being no further business before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2035 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Maston, N6OPH  
Recording Secretary for Dan N6ERD.



Del Mar Fair at Kids Best



## From The Vice President KO4QT Steve



As most of you know by now, our Club storage shed was broken into on the night of Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Some of the items stolen were our generator and power cable, our A3S yagi antenna and our coax. As you know, we depend on these items not only for Field Day, but also to aid the community in the event of a disaster.

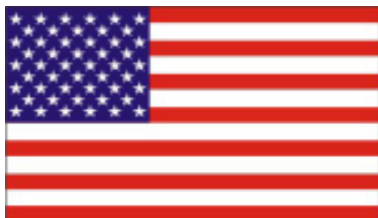
I posted our loss and our need for equipment for Field Day on our Yahoo! groups reflector Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Within hours I began getting email's, posts to the reflector and phone calls from individual HAM's, as well as Clubs, offering assistance. We even got a \$100.00 donation from the Six Shooters Amateur Radio Club. As seen so many times in the past, when the chips are down, Amateur Radio Operators pull together to get on the air. This time is no different. I would like to thank to all of you who have contributed.

By the time this goes to print, the 100 mile endurance run, our Club's weekend at the Fair, Kids Best, and Field Day will have come and gone, and I'd like to thank all of you who participated.

Our July meeting should be inspiring as Marcia De Runtz talks to us about handicapped HAM's or HandiHam's.

73's and see you at the meeting,

Steve, KO4QT



### WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

#### WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights  
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:  
8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

#### New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.


## Calendar of Events July 2008

July	1:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
July	5:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
July	5:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
July	10:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
July	19:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
July	19:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
July	20:	Counterpoise Dead Line

### Upcoming Event Dates

Aug.	9:	Annual Club Picnic
Oct.	4:	Open House Fire Station 6
Nov.	23:	Mother Goose Parade

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San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: [www.wa6bgs.org](http://www.wa6bgs.org)

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

## Change of Address

### Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call \_\_\_\_\_ WAMO# \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
New Address:  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Membership Chairperson:  
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

### ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to  
**Membership Chairperson**  
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New ( ) or Renewal ( )	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ( )	Check No.
Check ( )	Date Paid:

### Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

# FUN PAGE

## Birthday

July 1	WB6DTR	Alex	Groza
July 1	KF6YVL	Denise	Taylor
July 3	KG6PSK	Mark	Robinson
July 5	NZ6T	Tuck	Miller
July 6	KI6KUA	Chester	Roome
July 6	WA6L	John	Graf
July 7	AC6FM	Michael	Breaux
July 9	KI6DAP	Carter	Johnston
July 12	KG6SMT	Bryan	Kukuk
July 13	KF6SXZ	Marco	Thorne
July 13	KG6ZTN	Henk	Visser
July 13	K5ERS	Eliseo	Sisneros
July 14	W6MTG	Mike	Greene
July 15	KF6OZD	Wayne	Oliver
July 16	AD6ZM	Jack	Star
July 17	KI6JUD	Linda	Weed
July 22	KF6WXA	Susan	Kochel
July 23	KF6WVX	Earl	Davis
July 25	N6LRV	Gary	Richardson
July 25	KO4QT	Steve	Weed
July 27	WA1ZEN	Tim	Ames
July 27	KR6RG	Roy	Gallagher
July 27	KE6ASP	Everett	Ratta
July 31	N6OPH	Mike	Maston
July 31	KE6GLM	Griff	Davies
July 31	KI6FNE	Samantha	Lang
July 31	KI6FMJ	Alexandra	Lang

## Word Search

O H C O M P U T I N G H W Q U D  
M R A Q T E A C H I N G Y P L I S  
V E G N M Q V H G N I R A H S S  
O P M A D S T U D E N T S Y V A B  
L E S M N I R L G R K W R S Q B  
U A W U W I H P Y K U Q P I W I  
N T N R P V Z A S E S N E C I L  
T E V T B P H A M B Q T V A N I  
E R Q K E H O W T L G H R L T T  
E M R U N N Y R W I W Y Z W E I  
R W H L E K N Q T N O V K Z R E  
S V P H F R W A V D H N U G N S  
Q L U L I U H K S Q P K R Y E W  
P H S A T E L L I T E H G K T Q  
W M E M B E R S U W L V U Q L S  
E L E C T R O N I C S Q P H U V  
V U H P N O I S S I M S N A R T

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNAS     | <input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFIT      | <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLIND        | <input type="checkbox"/> REPEATER     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMPUTING    | <input type="checkbox"/> SATELLITE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITIES | <input type="checkbox"/> SHARING      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTRONICS  | <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENTS     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HANDIHAM     | <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INTERNET     | <input type="checkbox"/> TEACHING     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LICENSES     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSMISSION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERS      | <input type="checkbox"/> VOLUNTEERS   |

## Brain Thinkers

- 2= H. of C.                      2 Houses of Congress
- 4 =S's in M.                      4 S's in Mississippi
- 6= T.Z. in the U. S. 6 Time Zones in the United States
- This Months -----
- 5= D. for a G. of G
- 7= P. of W.
- 9= P. in our S. S

## Last Months Word Search

T W U D W Y Z I V A R A C U O R  
R E P E A T E R J A U K Y W W O  
A K H U D A J Y W Z C P D E Z T  
N R M E A S U R E S W U W J C  
S I D E B A N D I P D H U E R U  
P Q P W A P S Z A H I N Y M A D  
O J U A H W K R P S O D A E Z N  
N H L R R I Y W J I A Z P N Y D I  
D D S U C J A C T Z U I H T A  
E R E P H E I A R S K R G R C D  
R H A D K R C Y U W A O N P N U  
W A W J T I R P A A Z H D H E H  
P Z K C U K W J H Y R U D K G W  
H P E M J S Y E T E M W A A R P  
A L M U H P H U U A D J O R E Z  
E O U Z D R B K H D K Q L S M A  
C A R R I E R Z C I D O I R E P





## WA6 Big Green Spider Field Day 2008



On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June Steve, KO4QT and myself Paul, KC6QLS got the call that the Club's storage shed had been broken into. Our hearts skipped a beat and we had a feeling of great loss. When we arrived at the site, the lock was cut off and some of our equipment was missing. Our Club's generator was the first thing we noticed was missing. As we looked around, things were just not there. Lots of coax and the power cord for the generator were gone! Then we noticed the new A3S 10, 15 & 20 meter Yagi that was in a custom made crate was missing too. Boy, that one really hurt, to a total of about \$7000.00!

We looked at each other and said, "Well, what about Field Day?" Then we said "Let's work with it! Ok, so items are gone and never to be seen again. Let's put a call out to the Media and the local Amateur Radio Community." So we did just that. One of the local papers the *Union Tribune* called us and put a column in the next Thursday's paper.

Members of the local Amateur Radio Community came together and we got everything we needed and put on one of the best Field Days ever. We had two different members come forward with generators and many members donated enough coax to reach from San Diego to the east coast. That's one good thing about Amateur Radio Operators; IN THE TIME OF NEED, they put aside anything that they are doing and pitch in with what they can do or loan out. Yes, I can and will say that Amateur Radio Operators are a rare breed who go that extra mile when called on!

As Field Day got closer and closer, we were going all over and collecting all the gear and putting tags on it to give it back to the rightful owners. We took photos of everything that was left and noted all serial numbers for the records and got the best lock money can buy. We took security issues to heart and now have security stepped up.

Then came Field Day, we all wore WA6 Big Green Spider club t-shirts. We had well experienced members teaching the new members the fine art of tower placement and how to install them. Up on the deck we also had experienced members showing the new members how to hook up the radios and how to operate them.

Then Field Day started! "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day. This is WA6 Big Green Spider" was going out over the air waves and San Diego was put on the map. Stations would come back and say Big Green Spider this is ... and we would log it. Some of the younger Amateur Radio Operators, who had never worked on HF before, made a number of contacts and had fun.

People were everywhere doing something; cooking, hooking up something, tuning the antennas, picking up any trash, playing Chess, T-Hunt training, and talking with anyone who stopped by with questions and taking them for a tour of our Field Day site and then putting them on the air for the first time. Points were being logged just as fast as the scribe could keep up with the Radio Operator. Sometimes the cook announced chow is on, and we had to peel them out of the chair and some took chow back to the rigs and worked the pile up on 40 meters.

The youth were in full swing. We had more youth members at this Field Day than in the past. I believe every one of them worked the radios, and some for the very first time. Just to see their little faces light up when they made their first contact made everything we went through to make Field Day 2008 happen worth it. Fun was had by all and no one went away on an empty stomach.

All in all, it was like we were all one big happy family doing what we do best; working on the radios until midnight and then the night owls came out and worked till the sun came out. Everyone found a place that worked best for them; members learned many things they did not know before they made the drive up the hill to our Field Day on Mount Laguna about 6500 feet above San Diego County. Hope to see you next year or hear you on the radio next Field Day.

73  
Paul Rios  
KC6QLS



The Editor's  
Corner  
KC6QLS Paul



### Editor's Corner

As it seems that we have a lot of new Hams, who may need help from an Elmer, I was thinking about a new column in the Counterpoise called "Ask an Elmer." The intent of the column would be to answer amateur radio related questions regarding how to select a radio; which radios are best for what; how to get on the air; antenna questions; volunteer opportunity related questions, etc. In order to make this column a success, the Counterpoise will need several individuals to respond to questions as "an Elmer" and, of course, questions that folks want answered. If you would like to be an Elmer and respond to questions, please let me know as soon as possible as we will need several Elmers with experience in different areas to respond to questions. Also, if anyone has any question(s) they want answered, please email your question(s) to me at [kc6qls@cox.net](mailto:kc6qls@cox.net). I look forward to receiving your questions and getting this column started and hope our members will find the information in this column helpful.

Paul, KC6QLS

### Public Relations

Steve KO4QT and I spent time at the Del Mar Fair at "The SANDARC Booth." We talked to many people about the fine art of Amateur Radio. We had people ask us about how to get their license and what is Amateur Radio.

The fair's theme this year was Sports, and we had all kinds of athletes that were or are Hams displayed on A-frames. We also had a display on Amateur Radio that included digital communications, space shuttle, DXing and many other modes. We received a big blue ribbon for participation. I think the new spot is better than the last one. Yes, we are outside, but we were under the shade and had a nice breeze to keep us cool. We may do things a little different next year,



Continued on page 15

## Volunteers Needed

### Up Coming Events

Fire Station #6 Open House "ARCEC Booth"  
Please Sign up at the next meeting

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## E-Mail

Address for the Counterpoise. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

[WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net](mailto:WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net)

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## Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

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## Things to keep in mind

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector*

*To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

---

## Quote of the Month

"I am about to take my last voyage, a great leap in the dark."

- Last words

For Amateur Radio Public Relations San Diego  
Please visit  
[www.arprsd.org](http://www.arprsd.org)

## JOKE

When I saw the new radio, it was love at first sight. Then I took a second look at the check book and it really was not love.

Lisie KI6EEK



# Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



## Boat Anchor Field Day

I was just tickled when Steve KO4QT, our valiant FD Chairman, told me I could bring the Boat Anchors up to Field Day! I could have 75 meters during the day, and a whole table would be allotted to me since they take up so much room!

I arrived Saturday morning a little after dawn and found everyone enjoying the spectacular breakfast put on. TNX to all the Great cooks who made FD so very NOURISHING!!! I ate more Sat than I did all week! The Boat Anchors were set up, a complete Heathkit SB-301/401 station and a backup SB-101 station since I figured something would crap out. It always does! The idea was to make this as close as possible to FD in 1968, my first FD 40 years ago!

Steve strung up a 75 Meter dipole on the 6 meter tower which we checked on the MFJ antenna analyzer and it showed it worked great at 4.2 MCs. WAIT! No MFJ antenna analyzers were available in 1968! OK, so I cheated! We soldered 10 ft more of wire onto one end of the dipole and checked again. It was now resonant at 3.9 Megacycles. OK, so 1 end of the dipole was 10ft longer than the other, hey its Field Day!

The generator was powered up and the rigs were tested. Something was fishy about the VOX and PTT on the SB-401. Sometimes it would key, sometimes it wouldn't. Hmmmm. I tried the SB-101. That worked fine, but I wanted the high performance I would get from the SB-301 RX. The SB-401 was taken out of the cabinet and checked out. Couldn't find anything wrong, but the other club members enjoyed seeing inside this very unusual antique radio! I traded mics and it seemed to work a little better. A while later I took apart the Turner mike and cleaned the contacts on the PTT switch. They were all slimy and corroded. I also cleaned the contacts on the mike plug. Still didn't work!

As Field day began, I tuned around, up and down the band, but heard NO ONE!!! Where were all the FD stations??? Even large groups running 10A and such weren't on 75! But I was, and spent the next 10 hours tuning and tuning, and occasionally finding someone to work. From San Diego, I worked into Northern California, Nevada and Arizona. Just not many people on. But there were lots of Ragchewers on who HATED Field Day and made it well known in their conversations. Then there were some Nets, who also refused to work FD stations

and chased them off when they came near their frequency.

As the day wore on, it was hot, few breezes and I was tired of tuning. Unlike modern radios with tracking, when you move a few KC's up or down the dial on a Boat Anchor, you have to retune the Preselector. And each time I decided to transmit, I would have to put the rig in the CW mode and peak the Driver and final controls for maximum output. Even a short change in frequency made a retune necessary. New rig users don't know how EASY they have it!

For dinner, we had Teryaki steaks, WOW was that good!!! I can't recall tasting a steak any better! As evening set in, more and more FD stations started to come on 75 and the contacts increased. But all too soon, it was time to refill the generator and that meant my shift was up. The Boat Anchors were retired and a fancy new modern rig was set up for 75 night time. I am sure the valiant ops made lots of contacts. Many of the club members and visitors were younger than the Heathkit radios. Many had never seen a real TUBE before, less seen one actually work. They think about these kinds of radios being in a Museum, not actually being used. But back in 1968, THIS WAS FIELD DAY!!! Ops of that era would have just been Tickled to have an excellent station to run like this!!

I remember my 1968 Field Day with the Dupage Radio club W9DUP in the Western Chicago suburbs. We were in a clearing in a forest somewhere, and it was raining. We were in a tent. When the rain stopped, it was full of Mosquitos. The rig used was a Heathkit HW-32A Singlebander on 20 meters. The antenna was a dipole up in the trees. I remember calling CQ after CQ and no one coming back. Most of the stations we called didn't hear us. Another station in the group used a SBE SB-34 for the rig. Few contacts were made on that too. I don't remember the chow, but I am sure someone had a portable grill and it was hamburgers and hotdogs. Maybe more chili. I was 16 or 17, and was Thrilled to be there!

So, Now I look around the FD site and see a lot of PSK-31 operation, Solar power, Winllink, Laptops at every station logging the contacts and duping. Several self contained GO-Kits. We even had a VE team give license exams at Field Day! So much has changed, but I tried to re-create what it was LIKE back then. It was almost unanimous. Everyone wants to run the new whiz bang radios and not go back to Boat Anchors, except me. Maybe I can lobby to let me use them on 20 or 40 meters next year. THEN I will make a lot of contacts. OH, I used my 1968 Computer logging/Duper too, a Pad of paper and a pen!



Continued on Page 11

# DOWN BELOW IN EL CAJON

## LIFE BELOW 50 MHz

*"I Think I can, I Think I can . . ."*

It amazes me how many times I meet Hams on the air who are running an attic dipole. So many in fact, that I often thought that they should have their own club and their own contests. And it is not just attic dipoles. I recently chatted with a gent in North Carolina who was running a Buddipole antenna on the balcony of his condo!

These people have my respect and admiration. I guess nobody told them that they can't be a Ham Radio Operator if they live in an apartment or in an antenna restricted home. Nobody told them that these "compromise" antennas will never work.

So that brings me to my point. I firmly believe that anyone can operate HF from their home. It doesn't matter what the restrictions are or how small their apartment is. All they need is two things:

The first is imagination. They need the ability to think "outside the box." Do you have access to an attic space? Then you have the means to install an attic dipole. Do you have a balcony? Then a Buddipole or mobile antenna will work.

There are many, many other ways to get an antenna on the air. I read recently of a gent who ran a long piece of wire from the high limb of a tree to about six feet off the ground. He fed the wire with RG-174 (very thin coax) which ran down the tree, under the ground, and to his house. But the best part — at the end of the wire hung a bird feeder! To all his neighbors, all it was was a bird feeder hanging from a tree, but he was getting on the air.

Flagpole verticals are another example of positive thinking in action. Although many CC&Rs prohibit antennas, few will stop you from erecting a flagpole. There are plans aplenty on the Internet for building your own vertical flagpole antenna, or you can opt to purchase one ready-made. They

work very well, are relatively inexpensive, and are easy to build.

There are also any number of small, stealthy antennas that are available commercially. Check the reviews on eHam.com. Loop antennas are particularly interesting, though they aren't cheap.

Earlier I said that there were two things you needed. The first is imagination. . .

Recently, you may have read about the exploits of K3WWP. It has been in several Ham publications. John (K3WWP) just finished 5,000 consecutive days with at least one HF QSO. His average QSOs per day is just under 10, with the highest number in one day being 461 contacts. He has 204 confirmed DXCC entities, with 100 on 40 meters alone.

John did this all with 5 watts of output power (QRP), simple wire antennas (dipoles and long wires), and CW (Morse Code). Of those three things — QRP, Simple Antennas, and CW — which do you think made these accomplishments possible?

If you picked CW, you are a winner! Learning and using CW is the second of the two things you need. CW will take your modest station and compromise antenna and make it sound big. You will make contacts on CW that you would never be able to make with any other mode.

There are many reasons for this phenomenon. For one, the narrow bandwidth of CW makes for a signal-to-noise ratio that is 100 times better than SSB, so your signal goes farther and is heard better. Additionally, the human brain is able to filter CW out of noise better than any computer can be programmed to do. So often you will be able to hear a CW signal when a digital (PSK) signal can't be decoded. And don't forget that many Ham stations,

## Down Below *Continued*

especially in poorer countries, are home-brewed and only run CW!

There is no shame in having a "no code" license. Passing a code test doesn't mean that you are going to retain, use, or improve your CW skills. Morse code now exists entirely outside of the licensing program.

As with antennas, all it takes to learn CW is a positive attitude. If you believe that you can't put an antenna up at your home, then you will never get one up. If you believe that you can't learn CW, then you never will.

On the other hand, there was never a better time to learn the code. Computers have revolutionized the learning process. There are many programs that will teach you the code, or improve your speed if you already know it. There are programs to simulate QSOs and contests, and there are programs to generate random characters.

What are the prerequisites? You need a positive attitude and 15 minutes a day. With those two things, you will achieve 5 words per minute (WPM) in a month. You will get to 10 WPM in three months, and 18 WPM within a year. You can continue to whatever goal you want, as long as you put up with the occasional plateau and dedicate those 15 minutes.

So, I hope that this information helps you decide to get onto the HF bands. There is plenty of space there and a lot of people who want to talk to you. It is on HF where you will truly understand the joy of Ham Radio. If you think you can do it, you will . . .

73,  
John, WA6L

## CREST continued

HEATHKIT SB-310!

What is a SB-310? It looks just like a quite common Heathkit SB-301 which was used on FD. But it was a specialty radio designed for Shortwave listening. It has the 80/40/20 meter Ham bands on it, but also tunes the 5.7, 9.5, 11.5, 15 and 17.5 MC bands. Even has the CB band on it at 27MC! This radio has AM, SSB and CW filters and is quite rare. Every one that has come on Ebay has gone for lots and lots of dollars. Until this one.

Some clown decided he wanted to repaint the front panel. He failed. As seen below the rig, the panel is trashed. BUT, I just happened to have a SB-310 panel scored ages ago. I had this idea of building a SB-310 from a SB-301, but after investigation, differences made it impossible. This one went for \$100 plus shipping and I was the only bidder. That was because I was the only one with a spare front panel! As you can see, it looks and works great now that it has been restored. Just don't confuse it for a SB-301 in my upcoming Estate sale! It is worth THOUSANDS (of Peso?)

Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ  
Curator  
Crest Radio Museum





## Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello to everyone,

It is good to be back home and to be able to sleep in my own bed again. My wife, April, and I had to go to Chico to see her mom who is not doing well health wise.

We took the train to Chico, and by the time we got to Chico, we had been up 24 hours. Then we took the train back home again, but this time, we were only up for 23 hours and 52 minutes. NEVER AGAIN will we take a train trip that lasts that long. And yes, we were in Chico when the wild land fires started, but we were about 20 miles from the fires.

What a great turnout we had for our 4th of July VIP Red Flag Patrol. We had 9 routes in the Eastern part of the County and 5 routes in the Northern part of the County. A total of 30 of your fellow and sister Amateur Radio Operators and family members gave up most of their 4th of July to help protect all of us from potential horrible wild land fire.

We also had Bob Lawrence from 10 News come out on the 3rd of July to do a story on the VIP Red Flag Patrol. Bob interviewed our President Paul Rios, KC6QLS; Michael Martak, AE6CQ; and yours truly, Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ. Bob did a great story that aired on 10 News at 6pm on July 3rd. Then on the 4th, 10 News sent out another reporter and cameraman. This time it was Evy Ramos. She and her cameraman followed Paul Rios, KC6QL, and Danny Briggs, KD6OKR, for a short while and a story aired on 10 News on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, Fox News sent out Carlos Delgado and a cameraman to do another story on the CAL FIRE VIP Red Flag Patrol on the 4<sup>th</sup>. This time the Fox News team met up with Michael Oberbauer, KG6TDP and Michael Martak, AE6CQ and followed them around for a short period of time and this story aired on Fox News on the 4<sup>th</sup>. So, in two days, we had three media hits on the VIP Red Flag Patrol. They also interviewed Roxanne, who told

them just how important we are to the CAL FIRE Volunteers in Prevention Program.

At this time, I want to say a very heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all of you who have supported not only the CAL FIRE VIP Program, but all the other events that I have needed help with over the 20 plus years I have been a Ham. With everyone's busy schedules these days, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. Your willingness to volunteer your time and your dedication to participate in community events is much appreciated. So again I thank you and hope you will always be available to help out when I call you for help.

I also hope that many of you took the time on the 4th of July to think about the real meaning of why we celebrate this very special day and to remember the brave men and women who right now are in harms way trying to protect us from another 911.

**GOD BLESS OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN OUR ARMED FORCES. THANK YOU!**

Well, that is it for this old keyboard. Until next time, be happy, laugh a lot, love one another, and remember to keep on smiling as it makes others wonder what you are up to.

Rich, N6NKJ



# Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



Welcome New Members

Hollis Barber      KI6PKX      WAMO # 1758  
Byron Ellsworth   KI6BUS      WAMO # 1759  
Donald Craig      KF6AHX      WAMO # 1760

The follow badges are ready for pick up at the July Meeting:

N6FRX      KG6NDS      KI6UYA  
KI6MUH      KI6JUD      W6GRK  
KI6GRN      KI6BUS      KI6PKX  
KI6KTZ      KF6ROE      KI6NHK  
KG6HBX

As most everyone knows, we have changed the ARCEC dues schedule so that everyone's dues will now be due December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. However, during this transition year, there are still some members whose dues are due between now and December 31, 2008. As the Counterpoise is online and not everyone is receiving a copy by mail, it is difficult to know when dues are due; and as a result, we have received very few membership renewals. This is unfortunate as the club counts on this income to support our Field Day and other events. If you have not paid your dues for 2008 or are unsure of when your dues are due, please see me at the meeting to determine the date your dues are due. When Dues are due, you will pay the prorated schedule for your dues for 2008, which will pay you through December 31, 2008 and put you on track for the new due date system. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this transition year. Once everyone is on track, everyone's dues will be due December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.



For new members who join during the year, the dues for the year they join will be prorated through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they join, and the next years dues will be due on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they join. The Dues Payment Schedule will be as follows:

## Individual Dues Membership:

**\$18.00 per year(\$1.50 per month):**

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

**\*plus \$18.00 for the following year**

## Family Dues Membership:

**\$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):**

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

**\*plus \$30.00 for the following year**

Ann, KC6TBG  
Membership Chair



Plaza Las Palmas Center  
1255 Avocado Ave. Suite 103,  
El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 440-4031



## Field Day 2008 Photos





## Public Relations Continued

like perhaps have a tower with a sign on it! It's a good spot for someone to work Field Day on Saturday. All you have to do is show up and turn the radio on and you can work Field Day from 11AM to 6PM. A big thanks to all who volunteered at the SANDARC Booth.

On June 21<sup>st</sup> we had our 4 hour kids best event at the Del Mar Fair. We all had fun! Right off the bat, a Girl Scout Troop stopped by, made some wooden CW keys, and got on the air. We could not have planned it better. The same day an ARRL Kids Day Event was going on. The girls from the Girl Scout Troop talked to other young Amateur Radio Operators. We had all kinds of kids making the CW keys and talking on the radio. Larry walked about twenty feet away and talked to the youngsters on his HT. You could tell by their faces that they were hooked. Many of them asked how they could get their license.

We did not have as many kids stop by as we anticipated so we still have more wooden CW keys, which we plan to use at the Fire Station 6 Open House on October 4, 2008. We plan to give out 200 or more CW keys and put as many kids on the radio as we can. Please sign up now to join us at this event.

Lastly, our Annual Club Picnic will be August 9, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the La Mesita Park/ Junior Seau Sports Complex located at 8855 Dallas Street / 9009 Park Plaza Drive La Mesa, CA 91942. We plan on eating around noon. We hope to have a T-Hunt, and there are usually plenty of experienced Hams around who can answer amateur radio related questions and help you get on the air, if you are not already. Please join us for this FUN event.

Paul Rios KC6QLS

## Odds and Ends

### ARCEC Reflector

For those of you who may not be aware, the ARCEC has had a Reflector for sometime, and it is available for all club members to join and use in a friendly, positive and cordial fashion at each member's discretion. There is no moderator and it is available for all members to use to post events, classes, activities, amateur radio for sale and wanted items, and for other amateur radio related communication. While the Reflector is available for all to use, please remember that all Official ARCEC communication is posted in the ARCEC General Membership Meeting Minutes located in the Counterpoise Newsletter each month, and the opinions expressed on the Reflector are solely that of the individual(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). To join the Reflector, go to [www.wa6bgs.org](http://www.wa6bgs.org) and click on the Join Yahoo Group Now



**Pat WA6MHZ Blast from the  
past Field Day Station on 80  
Meters.**

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
P.O. Box 50  
El Cajon, CA 92022



Issue Date 7/2008

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### Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2007? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.

## For Ham Radio Classes

**Please Contact:**  
**Mike Maston**  
**N6OPH**  
**(619) 296-9067**

Please Visit Our Website at  
[www.WA6BGS.org](http://www.WA6BGS.org)

### VEC Testing Sites

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 <sup>th</sup> or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

